

SN. 10/757,040

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. MLPO:002

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle body structure comprising:
  - a pair of side members extending in a longitudinal direction of a vehicle; and
  - a floor panel forming an accommodation concavity disposed between said pair of side members,said side members and said floor panel being joined together at nearly vertical surfaces, wherein said side members each are U-shaped, with an opening of the U-shape facing upward, and having a substantially vertical first side surface portion,  
wherein said floor panel has substantially vertical second side portions, and  
wherein each of said substantially vertical first side surface portion is positioned adjacent to and joined to one of said substantially vertical second side portions.
2. (Currently Amended) The vehicle body structure according to claim 1, wherein ~~each of said side members has a nearly vertical first side surface portion,~~  
~~said floor panel has a first bottom surface portion serving as a bottom surface of said accommodation concavity, and said second side surface portions erected in a nearly~~extend in a substantially vertical direction from said first bottom surface portion and placed adjacent to said first side surface portions, and  
~~each of said first side surface portions and each of said second side surface portions are joined together.~~
3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A vehicle body structure ~~according to claim 1, comprising:~~  
a pair of side members extending in a longitudinal direction of a vehicle; and  
a floor panel forming an accommodation concavity disposed between said pair of side members,  
wherein said side members and said floor panel are joined together at substantially vertical surfaces,  
wherein each of said side members has a nearly~~substantially~~ vertical first side surface

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portion, and

wherein said floor panel is composed of:

a first floor panel having a first bottom surface portion serving as a bottom surface of said accommodation concavity, and second side surface portions ~~erected in a nearly~~extending in a substantially vertical direction from said first bottom surface portion and placed adjacent to said first side surface portions, and

second floor panels each having a second bottom surface portion placed above said side member, and a third side surface portion ~~erected in a nearly~~extending in a substantially vertical direction from said second bottom surface portion and placed adjacent to and outwardly of said first side surface portion in a vehicle width direction, and

wherein said first side surface portion, said second side surface portion, and said third side surface portion are joined together.

4. *(Original)* The vehicle body structure according to claim 3, wherein said first floor panel and said second floor panels are independent of each other.

5. *(Currently Amended)* The vehicle body structure according to claim 3, wherein a flange portion extending toward an interior of the vehicle is formed at ~~a frontan upper~~ end of said third side surface portion, and ~~a frontan upper~~ end of said first side surface portion and ~~a frontan upper~~ end of said second side surface portion are disposed below said flange portion.

6. *(Currently Amended)* The vehicle body structure according to claim 3, wherein a flange portion extending toward an exterior of the vehicle is formed at ~~a frontan upper~~ end of said second side surface portion, and ~~a frontan upper~~ end of said first side surface portion and ~~a frontan upper~~ end of said third side surface portion are disposed below said flange portion.

7. *(Currently Amended)* The vehicle body structure according to claim 5 or 6, wherein a sealing member is mounted between said flange portion and the ~~frontupper~~ end of said first side surface portion and the ~~frontupper~~ end of said second side surface portion, or between said

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flange portion and the ~~front~~upper end of said first side surface portion and the ~~front~~upper end of said third side surface portion.

8. *(Original)* The vehicle body structure according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein a folding vehicle seat is accommodated in said accommodation concavity.